

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-17 (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A fastener system, comprising:

a fastener element having a holding pin, the holding pin adaptable to mount the fastener element to a component part;

a rectangular-shaped frame of the fastener element having a parallel pair of opposed ledges laterally mounted to the frame, and a rectangular-shaped opening positioned between the opposed ledges;

a substantially rectangular-shaped deflectable holder having a pair of distending spring fingers ~~oppositely positioned~~ supported from at least one adjacency surface and a pair of longitudinally separated concave shaped surfaces having the concave shaped surfaces oppositely directed from the spring fingers;

wherein in a fastener engaged position, the longitudinally separated concave shaped surfaces of the holder is face away from the component part and are adaptable to support an elongated object, the spring fingers are operably engaged with the rectangular-shaped opening by deflection of the deflectable holder, the holder is operably secured between the opposed ledges to resist rotation relative to the fastener element, and the holding pin is engaged with component part.

19. (original) The system of Claim 18, comprising a flange connectably joining the holding pin and the rectangular-shaped frame.

20. (original) The system of Claim 19, comprising a plurality of projections positioned adjacent the rectangular-shaped opening.

21. (original) The system of Claim 20, comprising:
a common width of the spring fingers;
wherein the spring fingers are positioned having the common width bounded between adjacent side pairs of the projections, operably providing a locked holder position.

22. (original) The system of Claim 21, wherein the projections comprise at least an adjacent pair of deflectable projections operably deflected by a lateral force applicable to the holder to release the spring fingers from the locked holder position permitting a lateral translation of the holder.

23. (original) The system of Claim 18, wherein the spring fingers each comprise:

- a ramp surface;
- a catch extending from the ramp surface; and
- a locking surface adjacent the catch;

wherein the locking surface and the catch are cooperatively engageable within the rectangular-shaped opening of the rectangular-shaped frame to releasably fasten the holder to the fastener element.

24. (currently amended) A method for forming a multi-part fastener operable to join an elongated part to a vehicle part, comprising:

creating a pair of longitudinally separated concave shaped surfaces on a holder element positioned to face away from the vehicle part;

extending a plurality of spring fingers from the holder element opposite from the concave shaped surfaces;

forming a frame releasably fastenable to the holder element using the spring fingers;

deflecting the holder element adjacent the spring fingers to operably deflect the spring fingers for insertion into the frame;

joining the frame to a flange; and

positioning a holding pin on the flange;

wherein in an installed condition, the elongated part is operably connected to the concave shaped surfaces of the holder element, the holder element is releasably fastened to the frame, and the frame joined to the flange has the holding pin operably engaged with the vehicle part.

25. (original) The method of Claim 24, comprising:

forming a plurality of parallel slits through the holder element; and

sliding the spring fingers into separate ones of the parallel slits.

26. (original) The method of Claim 24, comprising shaping the holder element to correspond to an elongated part shape.

27. (original) The method of Claim 24, comprising securing the holder between an opposed pair of ledges to resist rotation relative to the fastener element.

28. (original) The method of Claim 24, comprising releasably locking the holder element along the frame.

29. (original) The method of Claim 28, comprising positioning the holder element between a pair of deflectable projections.

30. (currently amended) A method to join an elongated part to a vehicle part using both a an elongated part holder having a pair of spring fingers, and a rectangular-shaped frame having a frame opening, the method comprising:

aligning the pair of spring fingers with the frame opening;

compressing the holder adjacent the spring fingers to deflect the spring fingers;

releasably joining the holder to the frame using the spring fingers;

locking the holder in a central position along the frame;

connecting the elongated part to a pair of longitudinally separated concave-shaped surfaces of the elongated part holder positioned to face away from the vehicle part; and

pressing the frame against the vehicle part to operably seal the frame to the vehicle part.

31. (original) The method of Claim 30, comprising positioning the holder between paired projections to lock the holder in the central position.

32. (currently amended) The method of Claim 31, comprising:
laterally pressing the holder to ~~deflect the deflectable~~ overcome a resistance of the projections; and
operably sliding the holder to accommodate an installation tolerance of the fastener.

33. (original) The method of Claim 30, comprising engaging the holder between a pair of opposed ledges of the frame to resist rotation of the holder relative to the frame.

34. (currently amended) The method of Claim 30, comprising:
~~forming a facing the concave-shaped face on the holder~~ surfaces away from the vehicle part; and
aligning the elongated part with the concave-shaped ~~face~~ surfaces.

35. (new) An elongated object fastening device, comprising:
a holder having an upper surface operable to engage an elongated object;
an under surface positioned opposite to the upper surface;
at least two fingers projecting away from the under surface;
a catch laterally projecting from each of the fingers;
a fastener element connectable to the holder and operable to fasten the holder to a part;
a plug-in snap coupling operable to connect the holder to the fastener element;
a plurality of parallel slits extending through the holder; and
at least two elastically deformable webs defined between adjacent ones of the parallel slits;
wherein each finger is connectably attached to a separate one of the webs; and
wherein the snap coupling is closable by a force directed against the upper surface of the holder.

36. (new) An elongated object fastening device, comprising:
a holder having an upper surface operable to engage an elongated object;
a fastener element connectable to the holder and operable to

fasten the holder to a part;

a plug-in snap coupling operable to connect the holder to the fastener element;

a frame of the fastener element having a rectangular framed opening;

a pair of opposed, longer sides of the frame; and

a flange connected to the longer sides by a pair of opposed struts extending transverse to a plane of the frame;

wherein the snap coupling is closable by a force directed against the upper surface of the holder.

37. (new) A method for forming a multi-part fastener operable to join an elongated part to a vehicle part, comprising:

creating a holder element;

extending a plurality of spring fingers from the holder element;

forming a frame releasably fastenable to the holder element using the spring fingers;

joining the frame to a flange;

positioning a holding pin on the flange;

forming a plurality of parallel slits through the holder element; and

sliding the spring fingers into separate ones of the parallel slits;

wherein in an installed condition, the elongated part is operably connected to the holder element, the holder element is releasably fastened to the frame, and the frame joined to the flange has the holding pin operably engaged with the vehicle part.

38. (new) An elongated object fastening device, comprising:
a fastener element including a frame connected to a flange;
a holder releasably connectable to the frame of the fastener element such that when the holder is connected to the frame a pair of spatially separated outwardly facing surfaces of the holder are operable to support an elongated object; and
a plug-in snap coupling connected to the holder opposite to the outwardly facing surfaces, the snap coupling operable to connect the holder to the fastener element.

39. (new) The device of Claim 38, wherein the fastener element further comprises a holding pin integrally connected to the flange and oppositely positioned from the frame, the holding pin operable to connect both the flange and the holder to a part.

40. (new) The device of Claim 38, wherein the outwardly facing surfaces of the holder include a concave curvature and the elongated object includes a cable tree received within the concave curvature.

41. (new) The device of Claim 38, comprising a locked position of the snap coupling wherein the snap coupling operably provides a first releasable connection between the holder and the fastener element, the snap coupling being releasable from the locked position by operation of a tool.

42. (new) The device of Claim 41, wherein the fastener element further comprises a plurality of projections, wherein in the locked position the snap coupling is releasably retained between the projections in an intermediate position.

43. (new) The device of Claim 42, wherein the holder is laterally displaceable from the intermediate position in each of two opposed directions relative to the fastener element upon exertion of a force applied in a lengthwise direction of the elongated object.

44. (new) The device of Claim 41, wherein the snap coupling further comprises:

two fingers projecting away from the under surface; and
a catch laterally projecting from each of the fingers;
wherein the catches are oppositely positioned from each other.

45. (new) The device of Claim 44, wherein the fastener further comprises a substantially rectangular framed opening including an undercut surface, the catches of the two fingers being engageable with the undercut surface in the locked position.

46. (new) The device of Claim 44, further comprising:
a plurality of parallel slits created through the holder;
at least two elastically deformable webs defined between adjacent

ones of the parallel slits;

wherein each of the fingers is integrally attached to a separate one of the webs.

47. (new) The device of Claim 46, comprising:
each of the fingers having a width; and
wherein each of the parallel slits extends greater in a lengthwise direction of the holder than the width of the fingers.

48. (new) The device of Claim 41, comprising:
a pair of opposed ledges extendable from the fastener element;
wherein when the holder is connected to the fastener element, the holder is secured between the opposed ledges against rotation relative to the fastener element operably creating a second releasable connection between the holder and the fastener element.

49. (new) The device of Claim 48, comprising:
an opposed pair of sides of the fastener element;
wherein each of the opposed ledges is integrally connected to one of the sides of the fastener element.

50. (new) The device of claim 49, wherein each of the sides includes one of a pair of opposed struts extending transverse to a plane of the frame, the opposed struts operable to connect the sides to the flange.

51. (new) The device of Claim 39, comprising a catch element created on the holding pin operable to enhance anchoring of the holding pin to the part.

52. (new) The device of Claim 38, wherein the flange further comprises:
a peripheral edge; and
a sealing lip positioned adjacent the peripheral edge, the sealing lip being created of a material softer than a flange material.